

William Holroyd House
106 Angell Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-180

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
80-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-180

WILLIAM HOLROYD HOUSE

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RI,
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Address: 106 Angell Street, Providence, Providence County,
Rhode Island.

Plat 10, Lot 261.

Present Owner Robert Leeson
and Occupant:

Present Use: Dwelling.

Brief Statement This is a well preserved house built in 1798 with
of Significance: interesting interior detail.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1797 For \$363, Moses Brown sells to William Holroyd, one lot of land on the hill in Providence bounded: S by Angell St. 60'; W by Samuel Eddy 120'; E by said Brown with privilege of getting to N part through said Brown's land where he proposes in some future time to open a street or way. Holroyd is to fence the whole lot except 1/2 of W line adjoining Eddy and to leave to the said Brown all the fencing stuff and stones on the surface of said lot. When the lot on the E side is occupied as a house lot, the owner is to fence 1/2 at that time. Deed Book 24, page 386, in Providence City Hall.
- 1798 Henry R. Chace, Owners and Occupants of the Lots, Houses and Shops in the Town of Providence, Rhode Island in 1798 Located on Maps of the Highways of that Date (Providence, 1914) lists an unfinished house here for William Holroyd.
- 1798 Tex List; Holroyd William; House on Angell W on Samuel Eddy Lot of land N side of Angell 60' x 120'. Unfinished house 40' x 34'. 2 stories, ends of brick, front and back of wood.
- 1811 William Holroyd sells for \$4000 to Nicholas Brown and Thomas Poynton Ives, merchants, the same property together with dwelling house. Deed Book 35, page 138 in Providence City Hall.

- 1824 John, William, William, Jr., and Joseph Holroyd lived here. . Providence Directory.
- 1828 Same Holroyds still living here but not in 1830. . Providence Directory.
- 1854 Property taxed to Thomas P. Ives Heirs.
- 1859 Property taxed to John Carter Brown estate.
- 1888 Property taxed to John Nicholas Brown et al trustees.
- 1900 W. R. Matteson et al trustees.
- 1909 William W. Sherman et al trustees.
- 1920 Sarah W. Dunnell wife of Henry.
- 1947 Robert Leeson taxed for property.

- 2. Date of erection: 1798.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

- 1. Architectural character: This is a medium sized two-and-a-half-story frame house, built in 1798, with clapboard front and back and brick end walls, with much original interior detail.
- 2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

- 1. Overall dimensions: 40' x 34' deep, five bays, two-and-a-half stories, facing south.
- 2. Foundations: Brick in front, fieldstone sides and rear.
- 3. Wall construction: Heavy timber construction with corner posts exposed on interior. Clapboards front and rear; brick end walls, common bond.

4. Stoops: Lot slopes up to back yard with cellar at ground level at front and with first floor at ground level at rear requiring high entrance stoop, double symmetrical flights of stairs against house, 10 and 12 steps, wood simple iron rail, door to cellar underneath.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys in brick end walls.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Six-panel main entrance door, Doric frontispiece, fluted pilasters, pediment, side lights and semicircular top light. Two leaf paneled wood cellar door under entrance stoop. Six-panel rear door from central hall, top lighted, simple wood frame. Kitchen door from small enclosed wood porch on east side.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Six over six light double hung windows, molded wood frames. Flat, splayed wood lintels on first floor, molded wood lintels on second floor continuous with cornice bed mold. Adjustable louvered shutters. Some rear windows apparently altered: Rear parlor windows now six over nine light with low sills; two rear kitchen windows connected with an additional window to form a group of three.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable, tile.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: molded wood cornice, returned slightly at gable ends.
 - c. Dormers: Two gabled dormers on south front, corner pilasters, six over six light windows, connected by a later shed roofed, clapboarded section.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Central hall, four-room plan, with hall divided with front and rear stairs, two west parlors now joined as one room, dining room at the southeast, kitchen in northeast which has undergone various changes. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement. Three rooms on third floor.
2. Stairways: Main stair in entrance hall, turned with winders at the top, open string, double scroll step

end sawn ornament, molded handrail, slender turned balusters and newels, two balusters per step. Back stair, enclosed straight run, continues to third floor.

3. Flooring: 2-1/2" strip flooring, apparently not original.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted or papered.
5. Doorways and doors: Six-panel doors first floor, four-panel doors second floor, molded, mitered trim, double architraves on principal doorways, crosseted on one doorway in parlor.
6. Trim: Molded cornice with band of reeding in west parlor, molded cornice elsewhere. Molded chair rail with band of reeding in parlors and dining room, chair rail in hall with sawn serpentine band. Paneled wainscot in parlor, vertical edges of outside corners (at the corner posts, fireplace, etc.) have vertical rope mold.
7. Hardware: Brass case locks and knobs throughout first floor, some original as on front door, others modern.
8. Lighting: Electric
9. Heating: Central heat plus original fireplaces. Southwest mantel in parlor, engaged Doric columns, high entablature with reeding, paneling and cabling, molded mantel shelf with reeded fascia and fret bed mold. Northwest mantel in parlor simpler, molded crosseted fireplace surround, high plain entablature, molded mantel shelf. Mantel in dining room, flat paneled pilasters with rope moldings, high entablature with reeding, rope moldings and paneling. Molded mantel shelf. Fireplaces have black marble checks and hearths. Three fireplaces remaining on second floor, one closed, molded crosseted fireplace surrounds, molded mantel shelves, plain or paneled entablatures.

D. Site

1. General setting: House sits at the sidewalk, elevated one story at the front with floor at ground level at rear. On a narrow lot, garden in rear.
2. Enclosures: Wood fences at sides and rear.
3. Walks: Asphalt public sidewalks in front; brick, flagstone and gravel walks in rear.
4. Landscaping: Semiformal rear yard with low fieldstone retaining walls, lawn, trees, flowers, and shrubs, laid out in a symmetrical oval shape.